

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for conducting an auction for a sponsor, comprising:
 - receiving score computation information, ~~at an auction system computer, for setting a~~ computing respective composite score scores for a bid respective bids submitted to the auction, the score computation information for ~~setting the~~ computing a composite score comprising:
 - a selection of ~~at least one of~~ a plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid;
 - a setting of parameters for each of the selected categories; and
 - a ~~weighting~~ weight specified for each of the selected categories;
 - receiving a bid from one or more participants, the bid including bid information corresponding to the selected categories;
 - calculating a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and ~~weighting~~ weight for each of the selected categories and the bid information ~~in the bid~~;
 - determining a the composite score for each received bid based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and
 - identifying the bid having the highest composite score.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving a designation of the participants who may submit bids to the auction.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising:
 - sending a notification to each of the participants based on the received designation.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the selected categories is set to a value provided by the sponsor.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the at least one of the selected categories set to a value provided by the sponsor relates to an evaluation of the participant by the sponsor.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of categories include a price, a distance, a quality, a volume and a lead time.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising: notifying the participant having the bid identified as having the highest composite score.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the information for setting the composite score further comprises a selection of at least three of the plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the information in the bid includes values corresponding to the selected categories.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the calculating of a weighted value for each one of the selected categories comprises:

scaling the values included in the information in the bid with the parameters set for each of the selected categories; and

adjusting the scaled values with the ~~weighting~~ weight specified for each of the selected categories.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the determining of the composite score further includes summing the adjusted values.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
receiving values corresponding to the selected categories before the bid is submitted;
calculating a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the
parameters and ~~weighting weight~~ for each of the selected categories and the received values;
determining a the composite score based on the weighted values for each of the
selected categories; and
displaying the composite score to the participant from which the values were received.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:
a computer readable medium having program code recorded thereon that is operable
on a computer system for conducting an auction for a sponsor, the program code on the
computer readable medium, when executed on a computer system, configured to:
receive score computation information for ~~setting a~~ computing respective
composite ~~score~~ scores for ~~a bid~~ respective bids submitted to the auction, the score
computation information for ~~setting the~~ computing a composite score comprising:
a selection of at least ~~one~~ of a plurality of categories as evaluation
criteria for the bid;
a setting of parameters for each of the selected categories; and
a ~~weighting weight~~ specified for each of the selected categories;
receive a bid from one or more participants, the bid including bid information
corresponding to the selected categories;
calculate a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the
parameters and ~~weighting weight~~ for each of the selected categories and the bid information
in the bid;
determine a the composite score for each received bid based on the weighted
values for each of the selected categories; and
identify the bid having the highest composite score.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~readable medium~~ according to claim 13, further configured to:

receive a designation of the participants who may submit bids to the auction.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~readable medium~~ according to claim 14, further configured to:

send a notification to each of the participants based on the received designation.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~readable medium~~ according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the selected categories is set to a value provided by the sponsor.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~readable medium~~ according to claim 16, wherein the at least one of the selected categories set to a value provided by the sponsor relates to an evaluation of the participant by the sponsor.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~readable medium~~ according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of categories include a price, a distance, a quality, a volume and a lead time.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~readable medium~~ according to claim 13, further configured to:

notify the participant having the bid identified as having the highest composite score.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~readable medium~~ according to claim 13, wherein the information for setting the composite score further comprises a selection of at least three of the plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~readable medium~~ according to claim 13, wherein the information in the bid includes values corresponding to the selected categories.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~readable medium~~ according to claim 21, further configured to:
scale the values included in the information in the bid with the parameters set for each of the selected categories; and
adjust the scaled values with the ~~weighting~~ weight specified for each of the selected categories.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~readable medium~~ according to claim 22, further configured to:
sum the adjusted values.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~readable medium~~ according to claim 13, further configured to:
receive values corresponding to the selected categories before the bid is submitted;
calculate a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and ~~weighting~~ weight for each of the selected categories and the received values;
determine a the composite score based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and
display the composite score to the participant from which the values were received.

25. (Currently Amended) A window in a graphical user interface of a computer of a participant in ~~for~~ an auction, comprising:
an auction window, displayed on the graphical user interface of the computer of the participant, operable to display information describing the content of the auction as provided by a sponsor of the auction;

a composite score window operable to display at least two of a plurality of categories selected as evaluation criteria for a bid, a value entered for each of the selected categories, and a composite score calculated according to the values entered for each of the selected categories, parameters set for each of the selected categories, and a ~~weighting~~ weight specified for each of the selected categories, wherein the composite score is calculated based on the respective weight for each of the selected categories.

26. (Currently Amended) A window according to claim 25, wherein the composite score window is further operable to display an indication of the weight ~~weighting~~ specified for each of the selected categories.

27. (Original) A window according to claim 25, wherein the composite score window is further operable to display a score corresponding to the highest calculated composite score and a score corresponding to values most recently submitted by a participant of the auction.

28. (Original) A window according to claim 25, wherein the composite score is displayed before the values are submitted to the auction.